

Re: ET Docket 03-104

Bruce Powell, KE4GFM  
317 Smithfield Blvd  
Smithfield, VA 23430

Sirs:

I am a long-time amateur radio operator currently holding the  
Amateur Extra Class license.

I am writing today to express my concern about having the power lines carry  
broad-band signals.

My concern stems from the fact that many emergency communications  
provided by Amateur Radio Operators (AROs) take place in the HF  
bands -- i.e. on frequencies between 3 and 30 MHz. Leakage from  
the power grid would be adverse to the emergency (and non-emergency)  
communications.

Many AROs report that they get very poor response from the power  
companies when they complain of RF noise.

I do not see this problem going away. And as the number and spread sources of  
noise increase the problem becomes worse.

If the FCC believes that broadband over the power grid is something  
the USA MUST HAVE, then I urge you  
in the strongest possible terms to make it clear that the power  
company is responsible for fast and competent response to complaints  
of noise from AROs and specify meaningful penalties for companies  
that do not provide a fast or competent response.

Your thoughtful consideration of this modest plea will be much  
appreciated.

D. Bruce Powell

D. Bruce Powell  
E44 Senior Engineer  
VASCIC Bldg 4th Floor  
tel: (757) 534-4953  
fax: (757) 688-8171